

28. A module according to claim 27, wherein the sweeping arm is disposed between the throat portion and the housing portion.

29. A module according to claim 27, further comprising (i) a card width switch including a card width switch arm pivotable from an undeflected position to a deflected position when a card is received in the throat portion, and (ii) means for detecting when the card width switch arm is in the deflected position to indicate a card received in the throat portion.

30. A module according to claim 27, wherein the sweeping arm is movable generally horizontally from the one side of the throat portion to the opposite side of the throat portion so that the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion.

31. A module according to claim 30, wherein the sweeping arm includes (i) a leading edge, and (ii) a hook portion disposed on the leading edge.

32. A module according to claim 31, wherein the sweeping arm includes a cutting mechanism for cutting a non-card obstruction in the throat portion.

33. A module according to claim 32, further comprising a first sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the one side of the throat portion.

34. A module according to claim 33, further comprising a second sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the opposite side of the throat portion.

35. A module according to claim 33, wherein the first sensor is located to detect if the cutting mechanism is damaged.

36. A module according to claim 31, further comprising a resilient bias for biasing the hook portion so that the hook portion remains in contact with a card when the hook portion is deflected by the card.

37. A motorized card reader module comprising:
a housing portion including means defining a card path along which a card is transportable;

a throat portion including (i) means defining a card slot in registration with the card path of the housing portion, and through which a card is insertable, and (ii) a shutter mechanism including a shutter member movable between an open position in which a card can pass between the card slot and the card path, and a closed position in which the shutter member blocks a card from passing between the card slot and the card path; and

a sweeping mechanism including a sweeping member for sweeping a region between the card slot and the card path to detect the presence of an obstruction other than a card.

38. A module according to claim 37, wherein the sweeping mechanism is disposed between the throat portion and the housing portion.

39. A module according to claim 37, wherein the sweeping member includes a cutting mechanism for cutting an obstruction other than a card in the throat portion.

40. A module according to claim 39, further comprising sensing means for detecting if the cutting mechanism is damaged.

41. A self-service terminal comprising:
a fascia defining a card entry/exit slot; and
a motorized card reader module in registration with the card entry/exit slot and including (i) a housing portion for containing a card read head, (ii) a shutter member movable from a closed position to an open position to allow card to pass between the card

entry/exit slot and the housing portion, and (iii) a sweeping member movable from one side of the card entry/exit slot to an opposite side of the card entry/exit slot to detect any non-card obstruction in the card entry/exit slot.

42. A self-service terminal according to claim 41, wherein the sweeping member includes a sweeping arm having a leading edge and a hook portion disposed on the leading edge.

43. A self-service terminal according to claim 42, further comprising sensor means for (i) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the one side of the card entry/exit slot, and (ii) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the opposite side of the card entry/exit slot.

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End

44. A method of operating a motorized card reader module to prevent fraud, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a card in a throat portion of the motorized card reader module;
- opening a shutter member to allow a card to move from the throat portion into a housing portion of the motorized card reader module;
- driving a sweeping member from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect a non-card obstruction in the throat portion;
- monitoring the sweeping member to detect if the sweeping member reaches both sides of the throat portion; and
- activating an alert signal in response to detecting a failure of the sweeping member to reach both sides of the throat portion.

45. A method according to claim 44, further comprising the step of:

- detecting deflection of a card width switch arm located within the throat portion prior to the step of opening the shutter member.
